Forward. Together.



THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN 2011-2015

Liberal ONTARIO

"These are uncertain times for the global economy. These are challenging times for our families. This is our plan to help. This is our way forward, together."

DALTON McGUINTY, PREMIER OF ONTARIO



A Message from Premier Dalton McGuinty

For a lot of people around the world, these are pretty uncertain times.

IN THE US AND EUROPE, economies are on the brink. Families have lost jobs and homes. And people are anxious. It's understandable – because the world is changing fast, and they want answers.

The way I see it, there are two choices.

The first is to try to recreate a low-skills, low-wage economy where you produce cheap goods that can be made anywhere.

The second is to develop a high-skills, high-wage economy where you produce goods that the competition can't make.

Ontario is building that kind of economy. It's the new economy. It's the way forward.

Because, when companies think about where to make a multi-billion dollar investment, they have lots of options around the world.

They ask themselves:

"Who can do the work? Where can we find the best-educated, most innovative workers in the world? Who is committed to the education of their people, not just today or on the eve of an election, but every day, and for the long-term?"

The answer for many companies, more than just about any other place in North America right now, is "Ontario."

That's because, together, you and I made some bold choices. We chose to invest in the skills and education of our people in a big way. In a way that would get results for families and our economy. Many – including the opposition parties – saw our investment in Ontarians as a frill. Instead, we stood firm.

That's the kind of plan Ontario needs in tough times. Bold, decisive, undaunted in the face of tough choices and focused on what our families need to succeed.

The platform you're holding is about making those kinds of choices. It's about providing you and your family with a plan for the future. One that will see us through uncertain times, and beyond, into the kind of society we want to build for our children and grandchildren.

A strong economy is important – but what really matters is that a strong economy lets us invest in the things that improve our lives.

A strong economy lets us invest in the schools – from full-day kindergarten to postsecondary education – that give our children the education they need to compete for those high-skills jobs in a new economy.

It lets us invest in our hospitals – in hiring the doctors and nurses we need to keep our population healthier, happier.

And it gives us the means to do all the other things that build a great quality of life: protect our greenspace, clean our air and water, care for one another, make sure families don't get cut loose and make sure our seniors have everything they need to stay active and healthy.

The work of building that quality of life has begun in earnest. Ontarians have been working hard – and working together – over the past eight years. It hasn't always been easy. I know we've asked Ontarians to do some hard things.

But we've achieved so much together. We've got Ontario on the right track.

We're stable. We have momentum. And we've done all this in an uncertain world. These are serious times calling for a serious plan. That's what our platform is about.

It's about the next steps we need to take forward, together. It's about boldly confronting the challenges that face us in the global economy, and setting out a plan to get us through.

Most of all, it's about getting Ontarians what they need to create opportunities for themselves, their families and their communities.

That's the key to winning a brighter future for all of us.

The choice on October 6 is clear:
We could go off track and backwards, retreating from the challenges of a global economy...



Or go forward, together.
That's our way.
That's the Ontario Way.

DALTON McGUINTY, PREMIER OF ONTARIO


-08.45 P
-79.09 H
-35.80 X
-00.44 S
-23.07 S
-08.03 H
-19.22 S

Placing Ontario in a Global Context

FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, economic news from around the world has been grim. Financial institutions have collapsed. People have lost their jobs and homes. And some countries have even come close to bankruptcy. It's clear that the new global economy can be a harsh, uncertain place. The competition for jobs can be fierce.

Governments are seizing every advantage they can to build a strong future for their people.

"America Is Bankrupt!"
THE ECONOMIST, FEBRUARY 11, 2011

"Nightmare on Wall Street"
ASSOCIATED PRESS, AUGUST 8, 2011

"European Financial Crisis – Is Italy Next?"
THE DAILY BEAST, JULY 11, 2011

"U.S. Dollar Could 'Collapse'"
CBC NEWS, MAY 25, 2011

"America Downgraded!"
THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, AUGUST 9, 2011

"Downgrade: The Armageddon Scenario"
THE WASHINGTON POST, APRIL 29, 2011

"The Euro Crisis"
THE ECONOMIST, JANUARY 15, 2011



THAT'S WHY INDIA AND CHINA ARE PUSHING to create the workforce of tomorrow. They're graduating more students than ever – well-educated young people who are fearless and ready to compete in the global marketplace. And Brazil and Russia – once struggling economies – are challenging the established economic powers of North America, Asia and Europe.

Though it might surprise some people at home, Ontario is seen as one of the rising stars on the global stage.

That's because other places see us seizing opportunities, too. The Ontario Liberals have put job creation, education, and health care back on track.

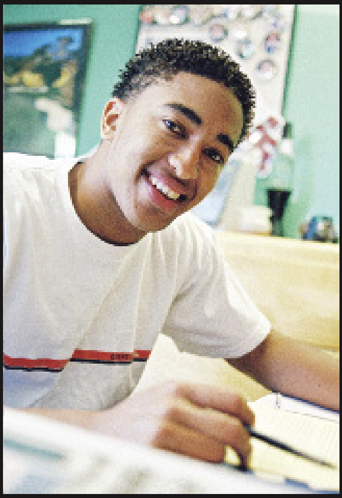


Today, 64% of our adults have a postsecondary degree, compared to only 41% in the United States. The high school graduation rate is now 81% – higher than it's ever been in Ontario.

In fact, Ontario's 15-year-old students are among the top 10 in the world for literacy. According to international studies, Ontario's schools are the best in the English-speaking world.

And the next step in strengthening education is full-day kindergarten – an Ontario Liberal commitment to help our kids become lifelong learners – which is the first program of its kind in North America.







“Ontario has led the world in education reform in recent years. The Premier is a model of the kind of leadership from the top that makes all the difference.”

SIR MICHAEL BARBER, FORMER EDUCATION ADVISOR TO BRITISH PM TONY BLAIR, AUGUST 2011







"Premier Dalton McGuinty's innovative Green Energy Act is shaping up as 'one of the boldest moments in history.'"

ACHIM STEINER, DIRECTOR OF THE UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, OCTOBER 1, 2010 (TORONTO STAR)





ONTARIO HAS REPLACED THE JOBS lost during the global recession and then some. So far, in 2011, Ontario's economy has created more full-time jobs than the rest of Canada combined. Ontario is number one in North America for turning foreign direct investment into jobs.

One reason for that is Ontario's decision to become an international leader in clean-energy ideas, technologies and jobs.

It's not that we're immune to the financial turmoil happening around the world. It's not that we're working harder than those who are struggling. It's that we're on the right track. We have momentum. And we have a serious plan to win a bright future for Ontario. And it takes leadership, focus, determination and working together to make that plan succeed.

> "Through progressive legislation and a smart tax policy, this Ontario government has transformed the province into one of the most business-friendly environments in North America."
>
> **BEN BAR-HAIM, ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES (AMD), JANUARY 2011**

"The commitment of the McGuinty government to addressing the issues of prolonged ER wait times has been nothing if not impressive.... [Ontario has] dedicated considerable resources to defining and addressing the problem that was not of their making and are unwavering in their search for a solution. This is leadership – and we can only hope that other provincial governments follow their lead."

DR. ALAN DRUMMOND, CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS, AUGUST 26, 2010






OUR PLAN TO ELIMINATE ALL COAL-FIRED PLANTS in Ontario is working. We've helped clean our air and reduce diseases like emphysema and asthma.

Ontario's surgical wait-times used to be the longest in Canada. The last PC government closed 28 hospitals and fired 6,200 nurses. Many Ontarians didn't even have a family doctor.

The Ontario Liberal government opened 18 hospitals; hired over 11,500 nurses, there are now 2,900 more doctors practicing medicine and 1.3 million more people now have a family doctor. Now, our surgical wait times are the shortest in Canada. That's real, measurable progress.

Together, we've made smart investments in health care that mean better care for you and your family.

Our health care system does more than provide great care for families, it also gives Ontario a competitive advantage. When companies are looking for a place to locate, they come to Ontario because health care is one more thing they don't have to worry about.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO DO.





“Ontario’s Dalton McGuinty is widely known as the ‘Education Premier’ because of his persistent focus on education as his number one priority.”

MCKINSEY REPORT, NOVEMBER, 2010

ONTARIO LIBERALS KNOW THE KEY TO OUR PROVINCE’S FUTURE WON’T BE FOUND BY LOOKING BACKWARDS: IT’S FORWARD, TOGETHER.

We believe we’re better off when we come together to face our challenges, making the tough choices we need to make today, and innovating our way to a better future.

Canada’s finest health care, returning and growing employment with thousands of new clean-energy jobs and one of the best education systems in the world – it’s no accident that Ontario is on track and holding its own in an uncertain world.

Other places in the world have taken note of our success and are looking to copy the advantages we already have.

WE HAVE TO KEEP GETTING STRONGER.

“The single best green energy program on the North American Continent.”

AL GORE, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 24, 2009



CHALLENGE:

Make Ontario the most attractive place in the world for jobs by preparing our workers for the next economy – not the last one.

Globally, the competition is fierce – and getting fiercer. To compete, Ontario will need an educated, highly motivated workforce.

India and China are investing heavily in education, science and research. They're finding new ways to innovate and mass-produce products for the world. They've got ambitious goals. India wants to increase postsecondary enrollment from 12% to 30% by 2020. China is increasing its investment in research and development by 10% per year – every year.

Here at home, we've replaced the jobs lost during the recession – and then some. We've done it by building a first-class environment for businesses to invest – lured here by a productive and well-educated population. The percentage of Ontarians with a postsecondary education is the highest in the western world.

In clean technology and innovation, Ontario is also considered a leading player. That didn't happen by accident. It happened because the Ontario Liberal Plan is making our province a leader in the new economy.

Economic opportunities can be found in helping the world change and adapt by building products like electric cars and producing clean energy technology.

> “I have traveled the world looking at top performing education systems, and the education gains I have seen in Ontario are astounding! Ontario’s education system has become one of the best in the world because of Premier Dalton McGuinty’s focus on sustained, measurable results for students.”
>
> **ANDREAS SCHLEICHER, ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, JULY 2011**

The PCs and NDP are stuck in the past. If this were 1911, they’d be fighting for the horse and buggy. In 2011, they’re fighting for gas guzzlers and coal. The world has moved on, but they haven’t.

The Ontario Liberal Plan has placed Ontario at the head of the pack, seizing the day on clean innovation. We don’t believe in waiting to be led. We believe in Ontario’s ability to lead the world.

The foundation of our plan is the same today as it has always been: education. If we want to out-work and out-compete the rest of the world tomorrow, we’ve got to out-educate them today.

So getting children a great start in school is critical.





“Make early childhood development a high priority. This is the highest payoff investment we can make in our long-run prosperity.”

ONTARIO IN THE CREATIVE AGE, BY ROGER MARTIN AND RICHARD FLORIDA, FEBRUARY 2009





Creating the Best Educated Workforce in the World

HOW EARLY CAN A GREAT EDUCATION BEGIN?

Along with the world's leading experts, Ontario Liberals believe that full-day kindergarten is the best first step to take.



We'll make sure any family that wants their child to attend full-day kindergarten will be able to do so by 2014. That's 50,000 students now and growing to 250,000 in 2014. For these children, the opportunity to learn will be matched by the freedom their parents will have to get a full-time job or further their careers through education. And families will save thousands of dollars in child care costs.

> "This should have been done decades ago but it's never too late to ensure a more complete approach to a publicly-supported education. This initiative will secure the investments we already make in elementary, secondary and postsecondary education. This is both a social and economic investment in our future."

THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM DAVIS, PC, FORMER PREMIER OF ONTARIO, UPON THE RELEASE OF ONTARIO'S "WITH OUR BEST FUTURE IN MIND" REPORT, JUNE 2009

The PCs and NDP just don't get it. They have repeatedly opposed full-day kindergarten.

Ontario Liberals are the only party absolutely committed to building the most educated workforce in the world – from full-day kindergarten to university, college and apprenticeships.

To compete with the rest of the world's best school systems, our schools must prepare students to become connected, global citizens.

We'll build on our kids' success in literacy and numeracy by introducing a new science strategy.

We'll foster skills like collaboration, team building, creativity and problem solving in every student in order to help us reach our shared goals: at least 75% of students achieving and exceeding our provincial standard (currently at 69%; up from 54% in 2003) and at least 85% graduating high school (currently at 81%; up from 68% in 2003).

> "I'm glad we have a Premier who has the courage to get this started.... Of course we can afford it. We can't afford not to do it."
>
> **FRASER MUSTARD, JANUARY 1, 2010**



We'll support struggling students through new summer learning camps in every school board. We will continue to provide a hand up to children who need help the most.

We all know the value of great teachers. That's why we'll give every new teacher the best start possible to their profession by doubling the time spent in Bachelor of Education programs, with an emphasis on more practical, hands-on experience before entering the classroom. We'll also provide more professional development opportunities during the first three years of their careers.

The Next Steps In Postsecondary Education

ONTARIO'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES have come a long way in a short time.

When we took office in 2003, successive NDP and PC governments had abandoned colleges and universities – leaving them with too many students jammed into old, outdated buildings, while allowing tuition to skyrocket.

So we took action.

First, we froze tuition for two years. Then, we took permanent steps to prevent tuition from spiraling out of control.

Next, we made sure students had access to the loans and grants they needed. We doubled student assistance and added a $150 grant for technology and textbooks.

We also invested in our postsecondary institutions.



HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

Test scores are up
15%

81%
of high school students are graduating: 20,000 more per year than in 2003

97%
of primary classes have 23 kids or less up from 64% in 2003

400
new schools built, 150 more on the way

8
years without any learning days lost to Teacher strikes or lockouts

Our plan is working. We have 200,000 more students in postsecondary education.

We invested $4 billion in building new classrooms, libraries, labs and other buildings on campuses all across Ontario.

We doubled apprenticeships to 120,000.

Today, students entering an Ontario postsecondary program know they're going to get a great education, and that we're willing to make the investments that will help them succeed.

But there's still more to do.

A postsecondary education is as necessary today as a high school diploma was a few decades ago. Experts say seventy percent of the jobs created in the future will need workers with a postsecondary education.

So here's what we're going to do to help you and your family meet that need:

To make sure there's a space for every student who is willing and qualified, we'll create 60,000 more spaces in addition to the 200,000 new spaces we already created.

To help more students get a great education close to home, we're going to build three new, leading-edge undergraduate campuses.

To reduce postsecondary costs, we already provide grants for lower-income Ontario families. As a result, postsecondary education has become more accessible for low-income students.



> “Investing in Ontario’s youth is a silver bullet that will ensure our province’s long-term prosperity. This is absolutely the right choice for Ontario’s future.”
>
> **MEAGHAN COKER, PRESIDENT OF THE ONTARIO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ALLIANCE, MARCH 29, 2011**

Now, we’re taking the next step to build on those grants to make sure postsecondary education remains accessible and affordable to the middle class.

So we’re going to support all middle-class Ontario families with a 30% across-the-board postsecondary undergraduate tuition grant.

That means – every year – the families of five out of six students will save $1600 per student in university and $730 per student in college.

That’s not only money in your pocket – affordability and accessibility of college and university education is the best investment we can make in our shared future.

We’ll also make sure students are accountable and responsible for this investment in their future by requiring all recipients of this grant to remain in good standing in their program.

We’ll continue to help cut student debt through our Ontario Student Opportunities Grant. We’ll keep the cap on student debt at $7,300 for each year of undergraduate study so students enter the workforce with an education, skills and a bright future – not a mountain of debt.

Any student who struggles to find work after graduation or has a very low income will have their loan repayments reduced until their income increases. In cases where students cannot find work, their loan payments could be reduced to zero.

Students who work in the not-for-profit sector will be eligible for an additional six-month interest-free grace period after graduation. So, if students choose to work for not-for-profit organizations they won’t have to start paying off their Ontario Student Assistance Program until one full year after graduation.

Building relationships and expanding international trade has supported some 2,000 jobs here in Ontario...

And has added $1.7 billion in new revenue to our economy.

PREMIER-LED TRADE MISSIONS

2008
China

2009
India

2010
Israel / West Bank

2010
China

Creating More Job Opportunities for Graduates

WHEN YOU GRADUATE, you feel like you're ready to take on the world. Many grads go on to do just that – starting new companies from garages and basements that go on to take the world by storm, and provide jobs here at home.

Our Innovation Agenda has helped create a new and strong pillar of our economy. Today's innovative industries, like biotech and the entertainment and creative cluster, are creating jobs in exciting, new fields.

We'll triple the number of successful start-up companies in Ontario in the next five years by creating incentives to ensure innovative companies have the capital they need to grow. We'll focus on some of our youngest and brightest minds, providing increased dedicated support to our young entrepreneurs.

Endless opportunities exist around the world for Ontario's small and medium-sized businesses.

We'll increase our support to help those businesses access new markets. The Premier will double his trade missions to eight to introduce Ontario businesses to the world.

The India mission yielded a huge win for our film industry where we've helped Ontario become a leading international film and media jurisdiction. Ontario now creates 40% of Canada's film and television production valued at almost $2 billion annually and employs over 23,000 people.

"We are extremely concerned about the opposition's recent commitments to cancel Ontario's Green Energy initiatives, when the economies of scale have not yet been realized."

PAOLO MACCARIO, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, SILFAB, MAY 26, 2011



New Incentives for Job Creators

THE ONTARIO LIBERAL PLAN will keep our province on track; it will build on major successes – like Samsung, making a $7 billion investment in Ontario to build four new manufacturing plants here. Toyota's newest assembly plant – the first in a decade – is here in Ontario. And now together with Toyota, we're building the first made-in-Ontario electric car. We're leading the way.

> "Ontario lands electric Toyota RAV4 project"
>
> THE GLOBE AND MAIL, AUGUST 4, 2011

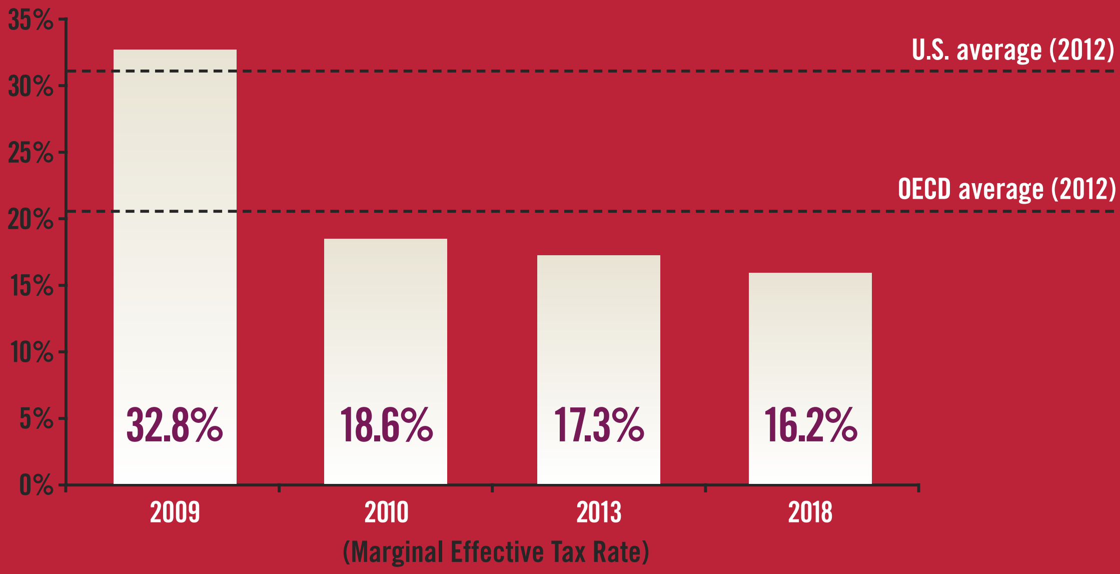
Examples like these are why we are second in North America for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) per capita and, more importantly, first in North America for turning that FDI into jobs. We know that in the new economy, job creators – especially manufacturers – look for places that know how to build innovative products. That's Ontario.



We'll be building the innovative products and services the world wants. With the quality of our education and the renowned diversity of our population – Ontario will be in a unique position to compete globally for investment and jobs.

To support these goals, we'll complete our business tax reduction plan. Our tax reforms have already cut the tax rate on new business investment almost in half. When the reforms are in place, it will be below half.

CUTTING ONTARIO'S TAXES ON NEW BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN HALF



Likewise, in 2009, to help our small businesses compete we reduced the small business tax rate by almost 20%. We'll reduce it further to just 4% compared to the 11% federal small business tax rate.

Immigration is another Ontario advantage. The quicker we engage the skills newcomers have when they arrive, the quicker they will succeed. We'll create a tax credit for business to give our highly skilled newcomers the Canadian work experience they need.

We recognize the value and unique nature of the regional economies across Ontario. Through the Northern Ontario Heritage fund and Eastern Ontario Development we've helped create and retain over 27,000 jobs in those parts of the province. We'll make those funds permanent and create a new Southwestern Ontario Economic Development Fund to help those communities attract the jobs of tomorrow.

Our plan to create jobs and growth is about creating the best, most educated workforce so that companies will want to come to Ontario.







IT'S ABOUT PROVIDING THE TAX STRUCTURE and incentives companies need to make it possible for them to come to Ontario.

And, finally, it's about attracting the right kinds of companies in sectors that will thrive in the new, global economy.

That's why we introduced and are committed to the Green Energy Act. At the centre of the act is our Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program, which provides guaranteed rates for renewable energy.

It gives investors what they are looking for: stability, certainty and our commitment that we are in this for the long term.

And FIT is why companies are flocking to Ontario, right now, and making us the North American leader in clean energy production and manufacturing and – most important – creating thousands of jobs here.

"I'm offering an endorsement of what Mr. McGuinty has done, absolutely. I think this is a great plan. It's what we have supported and encouraged and I think any party would be foolish to talk about abandoning it at this point."

DAVID SUZUKI, JULY 20, 2011

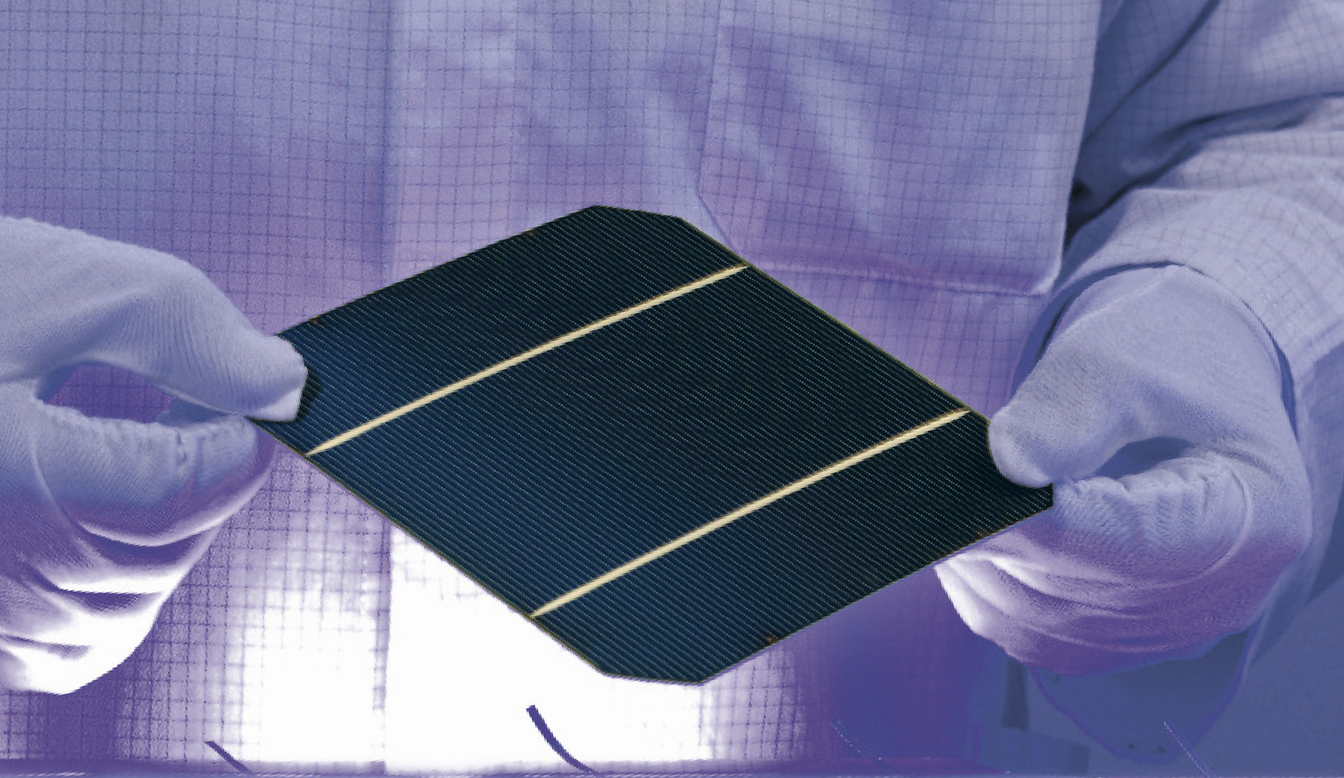


We're committed to FIT. And we'll make sure the program continues – because we know that the number of jobs will only go up, and the price of renewable energy will only come down.

So – unlike the NDP and PCs, who would kill these jobs, tear up existing contracts and drag Ontario backwards – we're the only party committed to delivering 50,000 clean energy jobs for Ontario families.

Over the next three years, we'll finish replacing coal plants with clean energy, making us one of the first places to do so. That has provided us with the opportunity to move forward on clean sources of energy like wind, solar and pumped storage that will create jobs.





"The McGuinty government has taken unprecedented steps to foster a new green energy industry in Ontario – creating thousands of new jobs and producing new, clean, renewable energy for the province. Competing jurisdictions would bend over backwards for the jobs and growth that we're experiencing in Ontario's green energy industry. I don't understand why Tim Hudak would want to jeopardize this."

JOHN GAMBLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OSM SOLAR CORP, MAY 26, 2009

We'll make sure job creators have the opportunity to control their energy costs – by powering up at the times when energy is the cheapest. Our energy plan will put an end to the days of power supply uncertainty – of blackouts and knee-jerk pricing changes that destroy people's ability to budget for their costs.

We'll bring clean energy to our roads as well. Our goal is to create new jobs by becoming North America's leading maker of electric vehicles. We'll accelerate our plan to have 5% of all new cars be electric by 2020 and invest $80 million in the charging stations and infrastructure required to support them. And our rebate will also make buying an electric car more affordable.

New Infrastructure for New Jobs

WE ALSO KNOW you can't have a 21st century economy without 21st century infrastructure.

Following years of neglect by the PCs and the NDP, Ontario Liberals have worked hard to rebuild Ontario's aging infrastructure. Together with hard-working Ontarians, we've built 18 hospitals, 400 schools, 5,500 kilometers of new road and transit – and over 9,000 megawatts of new electricity generation while creating some 600,000 jobs.

Now that we're back on track, we need to keep moving forward, together.

Our new long-term infrastructure plan, *Building Together,* will create more jobs for our tradespeople, strengthen the economy and help communities large and small to develop and prosper as they meet the needs of Ontario families. To make sure we meet our infrastructure needs, we'll continue to develop a strong apprenticeship system to support our growing economy. We'll improve pathways to apprenticeship and remove barriers so apprentices complete their training.



CHALLENGE:

Make Ontario the Healthiest Place in North America to Grow Up and Grow Old.

SINCE 2003 WE HAVE WORKED HARD to rebuild our province's public health system. We will continue building on our strong foundation to reach our goal of ensuring that every Ontarian who wants family care can access it. We will ensure that Ontario keeps the shortest surgical wait times in the country and that our hospitals continue to reduce waits for the 2.5 million Ontarians who rely on our Emergency Rooms each year. We will continue to reverse the PC cuts and hospital closures by investing in new hospitals and renovating existing facilities. And finally, we will build on our successful Aging at Home strategy to reform the health care system to provide Ontarians, and especially our seniors, with the tools they need to receive care in the dignity of their own homes.



Over the next decade, our population of seniors will grow by 43%. The number of people living with chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease will increase dramatically – as will the costs associated with treatment.

Today, too many people are in our hospitals or long-term care homes because they don't have the support they need to stay well at home.

> "RNAO looks forward to the day when Nurse Practitioner-led clinics are located in every pocket of the province so all Ontarians have access to quality and timely primary health care."
>
> **DORIS GRINSPUN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REGISTERED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO, AUGUST 2011**

Families are worried they don't have enough time or money to keep their elderly loved ones safe and healthy.

Our plan begins with working together to create new opportunities for the most productive and active generation of seniors the world has ever seen.

The Ontario Liberal Plan will give improved and equitable access to the community support and home care seniors need. We'll treat our seniors as productive members of society rather than merely institutionalizing them. We'll work to keep seniors out of emergency rooms and hospital beds by keeping them healthy, in their homes and with their loved ones.

Create Home Health Care

AS THE LAST GOVERNMENT, the PCs fired nurses – who are the backbone of our health care system. We hired nurses – 11,500 of them – and created 25 nurse practitioner clinics as part of our plan to improve primary care.

We remain committed to hiring more new and full-time nurses.

We are committed to training more doctors, nurses, and health professionals, including those who are bilingual, to meet the needs of all Ontarians.

We are redesigning Ontario's primary care and homecare system to provide every senior with access to doctors, nurses and other health professionals who will provide better services, such as house calls and check-in by telephone and online.

Navigating the health care system can be intimidating. That is why we'll provide a Health Care Coordinator who will facilitate care between specialists and family doctors, hospitals and the community to help seniors who've been hospitalized within the previous 12 months.

Our most frail seniors who are at risk of injury or illness will have improved access to Personal Support Workers to provide them with the care they need at home. Our investments will provide up to 3 million hours of additional care for those in need.

Make it Easier for Family Caregivers

OF COURSE, THE BEST SUPPORT is the support we get from our loved ones.

That's why we'll create a new Family Caregiver Leave, giving working Ontarians up to eight weeks of job-protected time away from work to help a family member who can't care for themselves because of serious injury or illness.

We believe paid leave should be available to hard-working families who support ailing family members. We'll press the federal government to extend Employment Insurance protection to those who are making this difficult but rewarding commitment to their families.

Make Home Life Safe and Affordable for Seniors

BY CREATING ACCESSIBLE SPACES that meet health care needs, seniors can stay healthy at home. In some cases, people will need a new ramp to replace the front steps, a chair lift to the second floor or a walk-in shower to prevent falls.

To make these investments affordable, we'll create a Healthy Home renovation tax credit worth up to $1,500 annually.

Working with Ontario's municipalities, we'll give seniors the option to defer property tax increases for as long as they choose to stay in their home. Any increase in property tax would be deferred until the house is sold.

> "Seniors will tell you, and have told those who will listen, how the Aging At Home program has kept many from moving into long-term care."
>
> JOANNE YOUNG EVANS, PRESIDENT, GUELPH INDEPENDENT LIVING JUNE 16, 2011




"Many seniors today want to stay in their homes as they get older. The problem is that often homes are not designed to accommodate people with mobility issues. If we want Ontarians to age at home we need to help ensure that their homes are more accessible and functional."

GAIL TEACHMAN, PRESIDENT, THE SOCIETY OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS, AUGUST 2011



Give Seniors a Place

WE'LL CREATE AN ACTIVE AGING STRATEGY to help make Ontario the best place to age and develop public policies that reflect the needs of the aging population in Ontario.

We'll refocus a portion of our province's research investments to support the prevention, treatment and possible cure of conditions such as Alzheimer's and related dementias.

Rather than pushing our seniors aside, we'll find new ways to engage seniors and help them contribute to our schools and our not-for-profit organizations.

Keep People Healthy

AS ONTARIO FAMILIES KNOW, the best investment in health care is the one that keeps you healthy. By working together, we've put Ontario back on track with smart policies, such as our Smoke-Free Ontario strategy.

Today, obesity rates are rising – most dramatically among our young people – leading to diabetes and heart disease. Unchecked, these chronic diseases can be fatal. That's why our plan will provide new opportunities for people to make healthy choices.

Give Ontarians Better Food Choices

WE'LL DO OUR PART TO HELP ONTARIANS get healthy local food, by creating a Local Food Act that will celebrate, support and promote local food. We'll continue to support farmers' markets and increase the amount of local food purchased by schools and hospitals.







Better Prepared to Fight Cancer

ONTARIO HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS in fighting cancer. Several international studies have found that cancer survival rates in Ontario rank among the best in the world.

We will go even further by providing everyone in the province with an online Personalized Cancer Risk Profile.

Your Profile will use your medical and family history to measure the risk of cancer. The system will match people to screening programs and prevention supports such as genetic testing for high-risk people.

Ontarians will be able to own their health records and use the information to better manage their own health.

> "Ontario kicks cancer's butt. Residents have a better chance of surviving disease than anywhere else in world."
>
> **TORONTO SUN MAY 26, 2011**



A Smoke-Free Ontario

THE NUMBER-ONE CAUSE OF PREVENTABLE CANCER IS SMOKING. We've already declared war on it. Now we're opening up a new front. When we're done, Ontario will have the lowest smoking rate in Canada.

That's our goal.

We'll increase fines on those who sell tobacco to kids to the highest level in the country. Those who repeatedly flout the law will be prohibited from selling tobacco and lottery tickets.

We'll build on our contraband strategy to choke off the supply of cheap, illegal tobacco sold to our kids by doubling our enforcement efforts.

Healthier Children

CHILDHOOD OBESITY RATES HAVE SKYROCKETED. Scientists say this generation of children could actually live shorter lives than their parents.

We can't let that happen to our kids. We'll tackle the challenge of childhood obesity by joining with governments, non-profit agencies and businesses.

We will create a Council on Childhood Obesity whose goal will be a 20% reduction of the childhood obesity rate within 5 years.

We'll start by providing all elementary school children with a healthy snack program, exposing more students to fresh, nutritious foods and building healthy eating habits.

And we'll get our kids moving by doubling our Children's Activity Tax Credit from $50 to $100 per child.

> "The McGuinty government is taking steps to encourage Ontarians to enrol their children in sport and recreation activities. Children that participate in good quality sport and recreation programs are healthier, do better at school, have higher self esteem and are more likely to be active throughout their lives."
>
> **LIZ WEAVER, PRESIDENT, PARKS AND RECREATION ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 2010**



Tackling Mental Health

MENTAL HEALTH IS CREATING an increasing burden on Ontario's health care system, businesses and families. One in five of our citizens has struggled with mental illness. We'll face this challenge with a comprehensive approach to mental health.

Our investment will start with a focus on kids, touching the lives of some 50,000 young Ontarians. Then we'll focus on prevention, early identification and services for adults.



"This is great news. We've not seen anything like this in decades... you would have to go back to the Davis government to find investments into children's mental health in this way."

GORDON FLOYD, PRESIDENT AND CEO, CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH, ONTARIO, MARCH 2011

CHALLENGE:

Lead North America in Clean, Healthy Growth and Smart Resource Conservation

WHETHER YOUR FAMILY has been here for generations or arrived recently, we've come together to build the best place to live in the world.

However, some important things have changed, and today we know what our ancestors didn't – that the old ways of development have harmed our air, land and water – and our health, too.

And, while there are few places in the world with more natural resources than Ontario, we must be vigilant to make sure they're protected. We have to grow our economy in a way that conserves them for future generations.





"Ontario's progress in phasing out dirty coal-fired power is delivering cleaner air and reducing greenhouse gas pollution – and that progress will continue as Ontario's energy supply features more renewable energy sources... The government's effort to eliminate coal-fired power pollution provides real health benefits for Ontarians, and those benefits translate into reduced healthcare costs overall."

CHERISE BURDA, DIRECTOR OF ONTARIO ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE PEMBINA INSTITUTE, APRIL 14, 2011

"This is a real victory for the protection of our ecosystem and the health of over 12 million Ontarians – especially children, who are most at risk."

DR. GIDEON FORMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, APRIL 22, 2008

NEITHER OPPOSITION PARTY HAS LEARNED THESE LESSONS.

It is thinking like this that has prompted Canada's renowned David Suzuki, to refer to the PC plan as *"absolute insanity!"*

And the NDP *"has essentially turned its back with its previous identification with the environmental movement to go for the populist hit…"*, according to progressive policy thinker Hugh Mackenzie.

We believe Ontario's families don't want to turn back the clock on environmental protection.

They want clean, healthy communities where they can raise their families with peace of mind. We believe that jobs, investment and export opportunities will go to places that have figured out how to grow while protecting the environment that sustains us all.

The Ontario Liberal Plan builds on the strong foundation of such successful strategies as the Greenbelt and Green Energy Act. Now that we're back on track, it's time to extend our lead when it comes to clean energy, sustainable growth and job creation.

Staying on Track

PUBLIC TRANSIT HELPS MOVE PEOPLE and goods faster; but it also keeps our air clean for our children and seniors. We'll continue with the largest transit investments in Canadian history in municipalities across the province.



After years of neglect by previous governments, we turned public transit around. Since 2003, we've invested more than $10.8 billion in public transit in Ontario, the largest investment in a generation.

We transferred two cents of the provincial gas tax to Ontario municipalities, large and small, for transit.

Investments such as those in GO Transit, the expansion of the Toronto-York Spadina Subway, our commitment to light rail transit in Waterloo and Ottawa, the Toronto Eglinton-Scarborough Crosstown LRT and the GTA Air Rail Link linking Pearson Airport and Union Station all demonstrate our commitment to keep our people and our economy moving.

In the next phase of the Ontario Liberal Plan, we'll expand service by delivering full-day, two-way GO train service on all corridors – that's the equivalent of 71 million fewer car trips annually.

While 94% of all GO trains arrive on time, we are committed to doing better. We'll provide a money-back guarantee to customers who experience a 15-minute arrival delay.

This means more trains, running on time, getting you where you need to go.





Blue is the New Green; Creating a New Generation of Clean Water Jobs

ONTARIO IS A LEADER when it comes to the clean water industry. The 22,000 Ontarians who work in the water sector today are among some of the best and the brightest anywhere. We need to keep our edge in the clean water industry. We'll move ahead with our internationally-recognized Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act by developing innovative, clean water technologies and practices that create clean jobs at home and clean water for the world.

Northern Opportunity: The Best Mining Industry in the World

ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING OPPORTUNITIES Ontario has seen in generations is the Ring of Fire in Northern Ontario. This massive mineral deposit is one of the most significant and exciting natural resources Ontario has, already attracting more than 50 companies who want to be part of the development.

We need to work together to seize its benefits just as we always have when supporting Ontario's mining sector. With our leadership, the entire province will be able to benefit economically from the Ring of Fire. That is why we have made sure that the mining industry and the Ring of Fire are an important piece of our economic plan for Ontario.

Conserving Nature and Connecting with People

THE PCs AND NDP HAVE SAID they'd roll back protections for the Greenbelt and the Boreal Forest. They'd rethink our Endangered Species Act – an initiative the World Wildlife Fund has described as *"The best in North America."*

We think the opposition's position is shameful and believe that Ontarians want these protections strengthened, not weakened.

Ontario Liberals will conserve these wonderful places for generations to come.

We'll build on our successes and work with our municipal partners to expand the Greenbelt to further protect our land from urban sprawl.

We'll defend Ontario's precious water resources for future generations with a Great Lakes Protection Act and launch a fund that will reduce water pollution and make our beaches cleaner.

Technology is one way to help kids learn. But new research proves what parents have always known: getting outside is just as important. That's why we'll join with not-for-profits and community groups to help more Ontario kids get outside, play and learn in the natural world. Experts say kids who get outside and connect with nature become healthier, happier and do better in school.



CHALLENGE:

Help Families Cope with Change

WE KNOW THAT CHANGE IS HARD ON FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES. We've seen it in the global recession. As Ontarians see the hardship our friends in America and Europe have been going through, it's natural to worry that it could happen here. We've got to face up to those concerns if we want to move forward.

Ontario Liberals have been keeping our eye on changes in the global economy.

Our plan is to face up to our challenges – look at them squarely and honestly – and do what must be done to create the solutions that turn them into opportunities.

"Hudak... harps on the past rather than seizing the moment and embracing the future."

TORONTO STAR, MAY 29, 2011







Help Families Deal with the Cost of the Transition to Clean Energy

THE NEW ONTARIO CLEAN ENERGY BENEFIT is saving Ontarians 10% on their electricity bills – every bill until 2015. It helps families, farmers and small businesses manage the costs of turning to cleaner sources of power – like wind and solar.

Help Families Pay the Cost of Undergraduate Tuition

NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, we're going to support all middle-class Ontario families with a per-year, 30% across-the-board, postsecondary undergraduate tuition grant.

That means – every year – the families of five out of six students will save $1,600 per student in university and $730 per student in college.

“Clearly the Premier is a man of his word. I am proud to live in an Ontario that has taken national leadership on the reduction of poverty. This is a historic moment in the fight against poverty in Canada. For the first time, a government has set a public target for poverty reduction and with clear indicators and investments needed to reach this target.”

GAIL NYBERG, DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK, DECEMBER 4, 2008



Help Families Step Out of Poverty

IN 2008, WE SET A GOAL of reducing child poverty by 25%.

To do that, we raised the minimum wage seven times, strengthened employment standards and introduced the Ontario Child Benefit. As a result, child poverty actually fell between 2008 and 2009 – despite the recession – 19,000 children and their families have moved out of poverty.

Over a million children now receive the Ontario Child Benefit and we have seen the number of single-parent families on social assistance drop from 42% in 2002 to 30% today. We’ll build on that success by increasing the Ontario Child Benefit from $1,100 to $1,310 in 2013.

Next, we’ll consider delivering a new housing benefit for Ontarians who are struggling and we will ask our experts working on the Social Assistance review to develop options. We’ll work with municipalities, non-profits and developers to identify opportunities to help create affordable housing. We will also set the next poverty reduction target to continue making progress on this important issue.



FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN IS SAVING FAMILIES UP TO

$6,500

per child per year in child care costs

This is the first program of its kind in North America

This September, 50,000 kids at 800 schools

That will grow to

250,000

kids at every school by September 2014

Help Families with After-School Care

THERE'S NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT to a parent than the wellbeing and safety of their children. Knowing that your kids are cared for in a safe environment makes the rest of life a whole lot easier.

Once full-day kindergarten is fully in place, we'll make sure all schools offer after-school programs for children aged 6-12. Parents will be able to drop their kids off in the morning, and pick them up at the end of the day, knowing they've been in good hands. An important focus of these programs will be to get our children active. We'll also work with our partners to modernize Ontario's childcare system and support centres as they transition to offering affordable care to families with younger children.

Help Families Find Time

WE KNOW YOU HAVE better things to do than stand in line waiting for government services. That's why we'll continue to improve the experience of dealing with government by making it less time-consuming and stressful for families.

We'll waive personal transaction fees at Service Ontario locations when the wait time is longer than 20 minutes.

We'll make it possible for families to coordinate the renewal dates for their Ontario-issued cards, so all family members can renew at the same time and avoid multiple visits to Service Ontario.

We understand that when children or their parents are sick, there's no time to waste. That's why we'll provide same-day and expanded after-hours access for family health care. And we'll bring back house calls from doctors and nurses for those who need it the most.





WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR TO MAKE LIFE JUST A LITTLE EASIER FOR FAMILIES

› Birth, marriage and death certificates are available online and guaranteed to be delivered on time

› One-stop online newborn registration

› Created an online Organ Donation registry

› Started Family Friendly Hours – many Service Ontario locations are now open later on Thursdays and on Saturday mornings

CHALLENGE:

A Strong Voice for a Strong Ontario

OVER 60% OF ONTARIO'S HARD-EARNED INCOME TAX DOLLARS are sent to Ottawa. When we took office eight years ago, Ontario was receiving less than its fair share of health care and postsecondary education dollars. In both cases, we fought hard and won equal per capita funding for the first time.

Now, more than ever, we need a strong, experienced government willing to stand up for Ontario.

We'll continue to make sure that Ontario's health care is the best in Canada. We're looking for a new, 10-year Health Accord, negotiated among provinces and territories, with priorities, accountability and clear goals. We'll make sure that those negotiations focus on health care reform, designed to meet the needs of our growing seniors population.





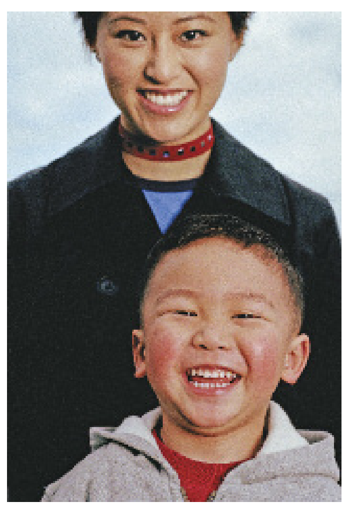
The federal government has declared a goal of making Canada an Energy Superpower. Ontario Liberals are committed to making Ontario a Clean Energy Superpower. The federal government has invested billions of dollars in the energy sectors of several provinces – and recently agreed to work with Ontario on clean energy projects.

We'll make sure those commitments are honoured and comparable to investments made elsewhere.



We've called on the federal government to reform the Employment Insurance system so that it's fair to Ontario's businesses and workers. In its most recent budget, the federal government took the first steps by announcing it would review the Employment Insurance system.

We'll continue to work closely with the federal government on this review to make sure that reforms end the long-standing discrimination against Ontario's workers and businesses. We'll also make sure those federal reforms complement our own reforms to social assistance to make sure that low income Ontarians get the support they need.



Immigration is vital to Ontario's success and we're proud to be Canada's No. 1 destination for immigrants. Given the importance of attracting the best workers – those with skills that are vital to our economic success in the future – Ontario Liberals will demand the same control over immigration that the federal government has granted Manitoba, British Columbia and Quebec.

A Commitment to Our Farmers

ONTARIO'S FARMERS PUT HEALTHY, locally grown food on our tables and the agri-food sector creates jobs and strengthens our economy. The Ontario Liberal 2011 budget took a significant step towards strengthening and expanding risk management for Ontario farmers to help provide bankability, stability and predictability. The cost will be shared between the Province and farmers.

Ontario is strongly urging the federal government to come to the table and take on its traditional role as a partner in funding these important programs.

"The leadership shown today by the McGuinty government sets a new standard in the province and ensures the sustainability of our family farms."

DON KENNY, CHAIR, GRAIN FARMERS OF ONTARIO, MARCH 29, 2011





CHALLENGE:

Move Forward With Our Balanced Budget Plan

DURING THE GLOBAL RECESSION, we built roads and bridges, hospitals and schools. We invested in the auto sector. And all of those investments kept hundreds of thousands of our people working.

Now that our economy is recovering, we need a plan that reduces the debt from those investments while ensuring that our economy keeps moving forward. It's a big challenge.

Faced with this challenge, the PCs are offering catastrophic cuts to public services while the NDP fights for higher job killing taxes – both would undercut Ontario's recovery.

Ontario Liberals reject both of these approaches. Only a party that deeply values public services can make the critical decisions to return Ontario to balanced budgets without devastating our vital public services. Only a party that understands how to grow the economy can fight deficits without resorting to higher taxes.

> "The HST, which many people love to hate, is nonetheless good economic and tax policy if we want to create jobs in the province of Ontario."
>
> **JOHN TORY, FORMER PROVINCIAL PC LEADER, FEBRUARY 10, 2011 (TORONTO STAR)**

“Hudak’s bitterness… has reached the point where he apparently believes he must destroy the province in order to save it.”

TORONTO STAR, MAY 29, 2011

The Ontario Liberal Balanced Budget Plan:

WHEN IT COMES TO MANAGING RESPONSIBLY, Ontario Liberals have a strong track record. Starting in 2003, we eliminated the $5.6 billion deficit left behind by the PCs.

Then, we delivered three consecutive balanced budgets before the global recession hit.

When we joined governments around the world in choosing to run deficits to fight the recession, we still developed and stuck to a plan to return to a balanced budget once the economy began to recover.

As a result, Ontario's deficit in 2010-2011 was $5.7 billion lower than projected in the 2010 Budget. More than three-quarters of all ministries found savings or spent less than had been projected while improving services.

Now, based on our current budget plan, we are well prepared to respond to further global economic challenges, should they arise.

We’ll return Ontario to a balanced budget by 2017-18. We’ll do this carefully, but steadily by protecting public services while getting the best value from tax dollars. We’ll reform the way public services are delivered, protecting vital services, while creating a smaller, more efficient government.

We’re on track to meet our balanced budget target. Since emerging from the recession, our prudent approach has reduced the deficit by 43%. And we have also overachieved on our deficit targets each year. But there’s more to do.

Reforming Public Services:

ONTARIO LIBERALS REJECT THE FAILED APPROACH of slash-and-burn-arbitrary-across-the-board cuts. This would weaken our public services and undermine our economic competitiveness – costing Ontarians more in the long run – just as it did under the last PC government.

We've worked well with different levels of government, including our partners in the municipal sector. We're uploading $2.7 billion from municipalities, freeing up room in their budgets to invest in local priorities and control property taxes. Unlike the Hudak PCs, we'll honour our uploading commitments, because ultimately, there's only one taxpayer.

The Ontario Liberal approach is to build on our track record of strong partnerships by bringing parties together to address the deficit as a shared challenge.

To provide advice on reforms that would help improve our fiscal sustainability, the Ontario Liberals appointed respected economist Don Drummond to Chair the Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services.

The Drummond Commission will examine long-term, fundamental changes to the way government works, without sacrificing health care or education, and without leading to higher taxes. Our plan will build on the work of the Drummond Commission to continue to reform public services, putting them on sustainable footing for future generations of Ontarians.

Smaller, More Efficient Government:

AS WE CONFRONT THE CHALLENGE of putting public services back on a sustainable track, we'll look for partnerships with public sector groups, not-for-profit organizations, and the private sector for new ideas. Why?

Because we believe none of us is as strong as all of us – working together.

ONTARIO LIBERALS BELIEVE that tax dollars should go toward investing in the vital services that matter most to our fellow citizens. Since 2003, Ontario Liberals have worked hard to achieve better value for money and, as a result, Ontario government spending per capita is the second lowest of all Canadian provinces.

We're relentlessly focused on making government more efficient, while protecting the vital public services our families count on.

We committed to reduce the Ontario Public Service by 5% by March 2012. By further reducing the size of the Ontario Public Service by an additional 1,500 employees by 2014, we'll save over $500 million in total.

And we'll find $200 million in savings at our major agencies by 2014.

Ontario Liberals don't want smaller government just for the sake of cutting services or reducing taxes. Nor do we think every problem requires a government solution.

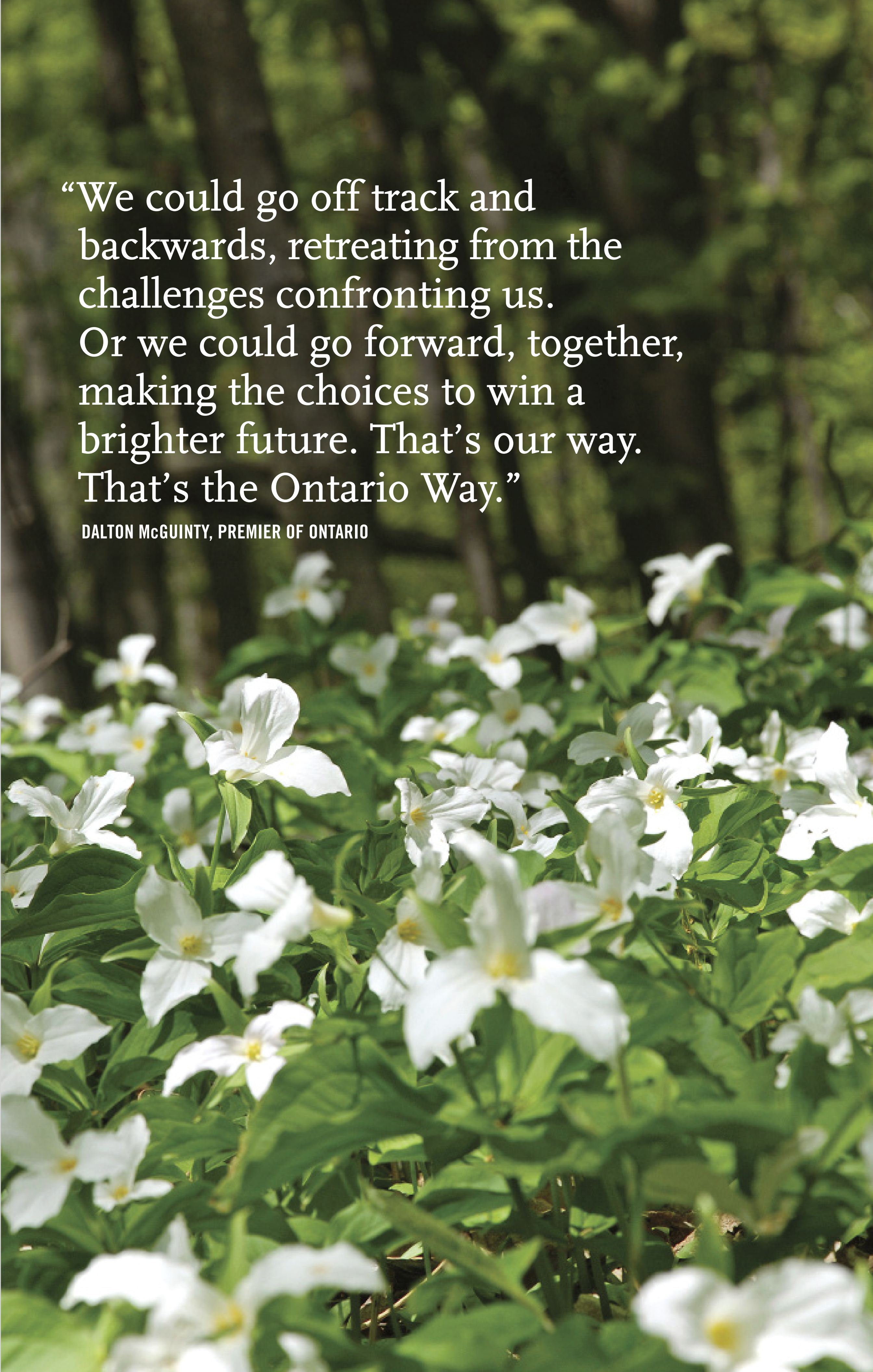
We know that core public services, like health care and education, are essential to the lives of Ontarians, and that they expect them to be protected and sustained. To achieve this, we'll be diligent about getting the best value out of existing taxpayer dollars.

We know the PCs would take Ontario back to the dark days of cuts and pointless conflict.

And the NDP? They'd seriously damage Ontario's economic recovery with devastating tax increases.

Only Ontario Liberals have a plan to protect our public services and keep them on a sustainable track while we grow the economy of the future.

> "Ontarians who look beyond the bullet points (of Tim Hudak's plan) and do the actual math, will come away confused and disappointed."
>
> **NATIONAL POST, MAY 30, 2011**



"We could go off track and backwards, retreating from the challenges confronting us. Or we could go forward, together, making the choices to win a brighter future. That's our way. That's the Ontario Way."

DALTON McGUINTY, PREMIER OF ONTARIO

FORWARD. TOGETHER.

› in Education, Jobs, Healthcare

FORWARD. TOGETHER.

› in Clean and Sustainable Energy

FORWARD. TOGETHER.

› in a New Economy Based on Innovation

FORWARD. TOGETHER.

› Leading the World

theOntarioWay.ca

Liberal
ONTARIO

Forward. Together. ›